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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 & 1.98

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| APPLICATION NO. | 09/987,042 | FILING DATE | 11/13/2001 |
| APPLICANT | FOLKMAR, J. | TITLE | DISPOSABLE PIPING BAGS |
| ART UNIT | 1761 | | |
| APPLICANTS REF | POLAAP104US | | |

RELEVANCE OF THE PRIOR ART

EP 0757006 This appears to be directed to a factory assembly for the packaging of sealed comestible products. The assembly has many features common to those set out in claim 1, including a pouch (flexible container 1), a nozzle base (insert 4) disposed within the pouch, and a cap (spray nozzle 6, closure cap 14) which connects to the nozzle base by means of complementary means (screw threads 5, 8 or bayonet 9,10) which trap portions of the pouch. However, as indicated at column 3, lines 19-24, the flexible container 1 and the insert 4 are connected together by means of a sealed joint 7, such as for instance, a spot weld. An assembly incorporating a sealed joint would not be suited for kit use, nor would it be suited where it is desired to re-use the nozzle base; also, it involves an additional step (spot welding) in comparison to assemblies in accordance with the instantly claimed invention, which rely on a frictional interaction between the surface dislocations of the nozzle base and the pouch.

GB 2,237,224 As stated by the patentee at page 6, lines 2-6, the pouch (bag 21) is fabric, and accordingly it would not normally be disposable. The patent does not mention the means of attachment of the nozzle base (outlet 22) and bag 21, and typically in the case of fabric bags this will comprise an adhesive. The patent describes the use of a stainless steel nozzle; however, this does not suggest a stainless steel nozzle base and the problem of securing the base to a disposable pouch.

US 3,847,523 Bag 10 as illustrated appears to be fabric, and no means is stated for joining the bag to the nozzle base 12. This nozzle base is similar to that described the instant patent application as prior art, with a stepped construction, and it would not be suited for the present purposes. In all events, there is no disclosure of a frictional engagement between a nozzle base and a disposable bag.

EP 0340132 This appears to be directed to a factory assembly for the packaging of sealed comestible products. The assembly has several features common herewith as set out in claim 1, including a pouch (poche 2), and a nozzle base (douille 4) disposed within the pouch. As described at column 4 lines 4-12 and 33-47,

means are used to prevent the nozzle base from migrating to the interior of the pouch. This may comprise welding about the periphery of the nozzle base, in order to secure this to the inside wall surface of the pouch. In accordance with another embodiment, means 7 for retaining the nozzle base 4 in pouch 2 are located outside the pouch. For example, an elastic toroidal collar 9 that coacts with a groove 10 formed about the nozzle base.

Clearly, this does not suggest the frictional type of engagement of the parts, which is the essence of the instant claims.

French 598,674 describes a nozzle base (dismountable socket) comprising a coupling **a** wherein the upper portion is provided with grooves to receive a pouch **b** “of the usual type”. Given the date of the patent (1925) a pouch of the usual type would have been made of fabric, and this would have been joined to the nozzle base adhesively.

US 4,844,917 describes a pastry bag wherein a nozzle base is held in position within the bag by a threaded cap which traps portions of the bag between the base and the cap. A separate seal 30 is provided to seal the bag.

US 5,931,346 A non-disposable pastry bag using a nozzle base (collar 16) which is frictionally engaged in the bag, and to which interchangeable nozzles 20 of various shapes may be threadably connected. To avoid any tendency for the mounted nozzle and the collar (nozzle base) to retract into the bag, the nozzles are provided with an outwardly projecting peripheral flange.

US 5,026,194 A non-disposable pastry bag with adjustable fastening means for securing interchangeable nozzles to the bag.

US 4,961,517 A non disposable pastry bag with a nozzle base and interchangeable nozzles threadably engagable therewith uses liners which discharge into the nozzles whereby the contents of the liners does not touch the bag .

US 4,776,488 A disposable dispensing bag uses a base disposed within the bag and a nozzle disposed outside of the bag which snap connects to the base when desired and simultaneously cuts an opening through the bag wall.

US 4,205,765 A non-disposable pastry bag of conventional construction includes a nozzle base 24 sealingly fitted into the bag, and preferably includes a reinforcing band 32 preferably bonded to the bag wall. The bag additionally includes releasable means for closing the top of the bag.

US Application 6,179,165 A non-disposable pastry bag includes a nozzle base 22 secured thereto.

The foregoing discussion of the prior art is not intended to be set forth in the order of its relevance.